(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of seats on Indian Arlines flights in the Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta sector;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of Indian Airlines flight in this sector; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to increase the frequency in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines, at present, is operating 11 flights per week by A-320 aircraft on the sector Calcutta-Agartala and is unable to increase the frequency of flights on this sector due to high cost of operations. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add new stations in their network including Agartala subject to viability and compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

एअर इंडिया में सरकारी इक्विटी में कमी किया जाना

944. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का एअर इंडिया में सरकारी भागीदारी को 60 प्रतिशत तक सीमित करने का विचार है;

(ख) शेष इक्विटी किन लोगों को दी जाएगी; और

(ग) इस इक्विटी के आवंटन का आधार क्या होगा?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) से (ग) विनिवेश आयोग ने अपनी आठवीं रिपोर्ट में एअर इंडिया की पुनः संरचना विनिवेश की सिफारिश की है। आयोग की मुख्य सिफारिशें निम्न प्रकार हैं:—

(1) सरकारी इक्विटी के रूप में 1000 करोड़ रुपए लगाना और अन्त में एअर इंडिया में सरकारी शेयर-धारिता को कम करते हुए 40 प्रतिशत तक ला देना।

(2) विश्वव्यापी बोलियों के आधार पर 40 प्रतिशत तक धारिता वाली एक सामरिक भागीदारी आरंभ करना।

(3) अंतर्देशीय संस्थागत निवेशकों को 10 प्रतिशत इक्विटी की पेशकश और छोटे-छोटे निवेशकों और कर्मचारियों को 10 प्रतिशत तक इक्विटी की पेशकश।

आयोग की सिफारिशें सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Malpractices on ticket Reservation for Leh-Jammu flight

945. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a passenger does not get confirmed seat on Leh-Jammu flight for long time because the Travel Agents book the seat in block on fictitious names without actually buying the tickets, later selling it to the distressed passengers at much higher prices;

(b) if so, what steps are taken to remove the malaise; and

(c) whether Government will keep the interest of Ladakhis when revising the air fare considering that it has far more locational disadvantages as is done with the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The approved agents of India Airlines Limited are permitted to make group booking in accordance with the prescribed procedure, whereby they can make group booking without names of group members at the time of booking. But they are required to give the names 30 days prior to departure date of the flights. Once the names are given, the agents are strictly prohibited to change names which have already been given.

To have an effective control, the Indian Airlines keep monitoring the group booking made by the agents. In case Indian Airlines do not receive the names of group members from the agents by the stipulated date i.e. 30 days prior to departure of flight, the group booking is cancelled and the seats are released in favour of wait list passengers. Hence,